

## Resolution #1

America's seniors deserve and should have full access to a complete range of medical therapies in consultation with their physician.

### Rationale:

With the rapidly aging US population, and with a new Medicare drug benefit on the horizon, many people are unaware that they are receiving a new benefit under Medicare and may not take advantage of it as a result. The effect of this may well be a worsened state of health for many people who otherwise would have been able to receive their medicines and consult with their physicians. Caregivers of the elderly also need access to information about the new drug benefit so they can help to better manage the care of the individuals receiving the new drug benefit. Patient safety and medication management requires more attention to potential medical errors made through a series of mistakes that could be avoided if people only had the knowledge and empowerment to make the right choices.

## Resolution #2

Public and private biomedical research in the US should receive more funding and public support as there is a critical need for new therapies to treat a host of conditions affecting an increasingly elderly population.

### Rationale:

This should be obvious but, unfortunately, there are many people who do not have an adequate understanding of the mix of public and private sector financial support for research yielding new medical procedures and medicines. Many people believe only the federal government conducts biomedical research when, in fact, more research every day is conducted by private companies and universities than by the federal government alone. This trend could decrease in the US should there be an increase in regulatory burdens to receiving new drug approvals from the Food and Drug Administration. More and more medical research is being conducted outside the US and this trend should, in and of itself, be alarming. To address this problem, and to encourage more research, the public needs the WHCOA to support increased awareness of the respective roles of private companies, government, and academia in the promising biomedical research enterprise we now have in the US.

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